

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 1293

mediation; confidential communications; exception Prime Sponsor: Senator Driggs, LD 28

DPA Committee on Judiciary

X Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

SB 1293 permits court-appointed mediators to disclose specific information if they reasonably believe that a minor or vulnerable adult is the victim of abuse, physical injury, neglect or a reportable offense.

PROVISIONS

- 1. Allows mediators to disclose specific information if they believe a child or vulnerable adult (as defined in A.R.S. § 13-3623) is a victim of the following:
 - a. Abuse (as defined in A.R.S § 8-201);
 - b. Child abuse (as defined in A.R.S. § 13-3623);
 - c. Neglect (as defined in A.R.S § 8-201);
 - d. Physical injury (as defined in A.R.S. § 13-105);
 - e. A reportable offense (as defined in A.R.S. § 13-3620).
- 2. Stipulates that the information a mediator discloses must be made in a report to any of the following:
 - a. A law enforcement officer;
 - b. The Department of Child Safety:
 - c. Adult Protective Services.
- 3. Defines terms using existing statutory references.
- 4. Makes conforming changes.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1. Includes exploitation in the list of offenses that may be disclosed by mediators.
- 2. Defines *exploitation* using existing statutory references.
- 3. Makes technical changes.

CURRENT LAW

A.R.S. § 12-2238 outlines limitations of privileged communications made or used in mediation. Communications made during mediation proceedings are confidential unless any of the following exceptions are met:

- All of the parties to the mediation agree to the disclosure;
- The communication, material or act is relevant to a claim or defense made by a party to the mediation against the mediator or the mediation program arising out of a breach or a legal obligation owed by the mediator to the party;
- The disclosure is required by statute;

SB 1293

• The disclosure is necessary to enforce an agreement to mediate.